

The GARZETTE

June, 2003

Volume 12, Issue 6



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The President's Key

By Bill Ahls, AB0KF, GARS President

This will be my last GARZETTE. I have found new employment in Tucson, AZ and will be moving back southwest. I start work July 7 with a lot to do. GARS is on the list but will bump down in priority. Mary and I will be sad to leave friends, but we will keep in touch. Mary is looking forward to living in the Southwest for her first time. The tower will stay here, is there anyone who could use it? All of you that knew I was looking thanks for your help and prayers. GARS is a busy club with all the activities and public service and deserves a full officer and executive committee.

For the best in GARS members: Get an Activities Manager, but you will be in good hands with Carl as acting President or Vice President. Ron Langston was looking to find someone as Activities. Give Ron a Call and tell him you can do the Job. Morgan is a good Secretary and may do another job. Talk to him. Techfest is uniquely GARS and some one should volunteer to get this on time for January. Carter Wood is ready to do the first scholarships and needs perhaps an auction. The best auction idea would be a mini auction perhaps at each club meeting or the odd month meetings. Talk this over and agree to act.

Memorial Day Parade and Buford 5K should be finished last month. Field day is coming up as the June program and June 28 weekend is the event. I will be with you in spirit if I cannot be there in person. Perhaps I will give a contact from an Arizona club. The Kidney Walk will need a person to head for GARS.

Webmaster, Brandon White NB5E, did have the burnt orange on the web page for a short time last month. I may be the only one who noticed. Thanks Brandon for the salute. We may keep the club guessing. Look at the website and see how up to date it is.

Thank you for the GARS help. Too many to list: Norm, Mike, Susan, Victor, Carol, Ron, Greg, Winn, Morgan, Eddie, Ray, Earl, Charles, Joe, Carter, Carl, Paul, Harry, Randy, John, Johnny... Many others.



Bill, AB0KF escorting Grand Marshall CWO Ron Young at the Dacula Memorial Day Parade. Check out the story on Page 6.

Photo courtesy Doug Kregel, KB6RRX

The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or by email to garzette@gars.org. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The GARZETTE articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to The GARZETTE

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Deadline for submissions is the 25th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For any additional information contact:

Newsletter Editor:

Colin Glennan, KG4QGD
(404) 915-8380
kg4qgd@gars.org

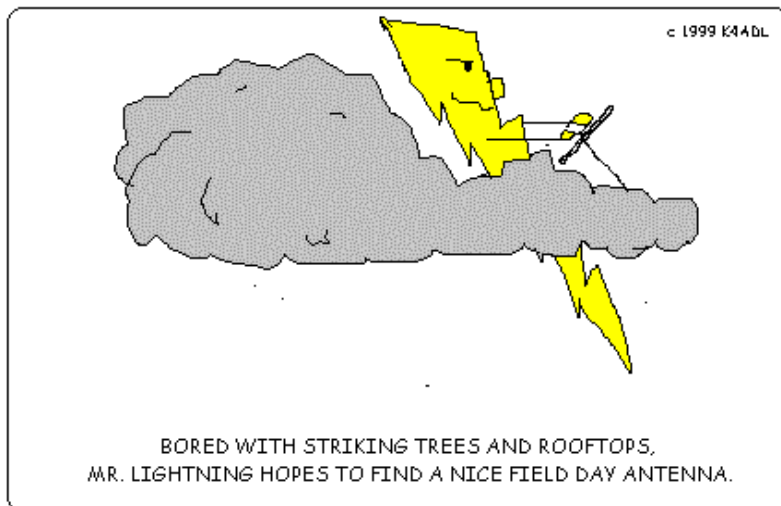
All correspondence relating to articles posted in The GARZETTE or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048
Attn: Newsletter Editor

GARS MEETING MINUTES May 13, 2003

- Carl - WB9JSW, ran the meeting.
- Introduction of officers.
- Colin - KG4QGD, reported that the paper version of the "Garzette" went out but the internet version did not. Approval of last month's minutes was postponed to next month.
- Norm- WA4ZXV, Publicity Chairman, requested names of people to build a distribution list.
- Carl - WB9JSW, thanked all those who helped with the March of Dimes Walkathon. The Dacula Memorial Day Parade needs volunteers.
- John - WB4QDX, reported that we have 208 members. The following new members were voted in and welcomed:
 - Frank Prayer - W8CXU
 - George Shaw - KG4YUL
 - Greg Mader - KA1HXW
- There was no repeater report.
- Ron - WE5O, reported only one person was on the CW net. If no more than one person participates he will cancel the net for the summer.
- Steve - WB2OGY, said the Venture Crew is looking to expand. He asked for names of perspective members.
- David - KA4KKF, there will be a short Field Day Meeting after the regular meeting.
- Susan - AF4FO, Bill Cherepy - WB4WTN, is the new state liaison for the ARRL.
- Program - Everyone talked about them self:
 - How they got started in ham radio?
 - What was their equipment?
 - Most memorable experience.
 - What year were they licensed?
 - What antenna were they using?
 - How long were they a member of the club (GARS)?
- David - KA4KKF, there was a vote for the logo on the Field Day t-shirt.

Prepared by: Dan Keohan - KF4YSU





June Birthdays

| Call | Name | Day |
|--------|--------------------|-----|
| KE4TVA | Bill Van Duynhoven | 2 |
| KE4VWP | Paul Matchette | 2 |
| KD4VOJ | Rick Morris | 3 |
| KE2USA | Tim Myland | 5 |
| WB4QDX | John Davis | 12 |
| KE4IHD | Ralph Matchette | 13 |
| KG4HVV | Victoria Darr | 16 |
| WA4DYD | Stan Edwards | 19 |
| WB2SQS | Michael Gioka | 19 |
| KG4YUL | George Snow | 24 |
| K9AOK | John Sokol | 27 |
| KG4KOQ | Jerry Henning | 27 |
| KG4QDH | Michael Ivey | 27 |
| N1TWX | Winslow Jackson | 30 |

Corrections

The May article "Even Two Makes a Class" was written by Carter Wood, AG4LK and the photo is courtesy of an unnamed student.

For the latest club news, visit the GARS Website at:

www.gars.org

Club Calendar

- GARS Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. We meet at the First United Methodist Church in Lawrenceville.
- GARS Monthly exec meeting is the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM. We normally meet at the Gwinnett Justice & Administration Building in Lawrenceville. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.
- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2 meter repeater
- Every Tuesday at 8 PM local time: GARS CW Practice Net with WE5O (not on 2nd Tuesdays)
- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: GARS 6 meter net on the GARS 6 meter repeater
- Every Saturday at 8:00 AM local time: GARS Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville
- 24th of each month: Deadline for submittal of articles for the following month's GARZETTE

GARS Elmers

Many of us Hams got interested in the hobby as a result of some influence and experienced Ham had on us. The GARS organization is blessed with a lot of talented members that are willing to share their knowledge. The following list is made up of those individuals willing to serve as Elmers. Hopefully, this list will grow, and in time, maybe we'll get more who are willing to add a particular area of expertise.

KF4KSE David Moon (770) 279-9924
mobile radio installation

KG4IUM Andrea Hartlage (770) 963-2715
making QSL cards

Bill Carter, KG4FXG, Mobile CW

GENERAL INFORMATION:

WE5O Ron Langston (770) 569-8354

N1TWX Win Jackson (404) 869-1347

W4WKP Johnnie Fearon (770) 466-6401

WB2YAD Duane

WB9JSW, Carl

K4MJK Mike Kovak

K4CB Carter Bennett (770) 923-5446

W4ADE Ade Wirth (770) 614-3743

K4HBI Mike Swiderski (770) 449-0369

W8KJM, Barney Barnes (APRS)

If you'd like to be a GARS Elmer, please email the editor of the Garzette at garzette@gars.org or call 404-915-8380.

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OPEN

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770-962-6129

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770-925-9549

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Education Coordinator

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(404)869-1347

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Mavis Plotz, N9FWG

QSL Manager

Ade Wirth, W4ADE

(770)614-3743

Webmaster

Brandon White, NB5E

Scholarship Chairman

Carter Wood, AG4LK

CW Net Manager

Ron Langston, WE5O

Field Day 2003 - June 28 & 29

The weekend of **June 28-29** is Amateur Radio Field Day. **Radio operators** and clubs **compete** among each other under simulated emergency conditions, using field radio stations, emergency power sources and temporarily erected antennas. The goal of the event is to **practice emergency preparedness**, and **demonstrate Amateur Radio operating** to the public.

The event commences Saturday 2 pm and runs through Sunday 2 pm. Stations from all over the US and Canada, and to a limited extent from around the world will be competing to make the highest number of contacts in a 24 hour period, using **voice, Morse code, satellite** and **digital** communications. Visitors are welcome – come take a look, and if you want, operate one of our stations. Talk in Frequency: 147.075+ Tone 82.5.

Location: **Rhodes Jordan Park**, Lawrenceville

Sponsored by **GARS** (Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society). For additional details see Field Day 2003 or contact David Adcock, KA4KKF at ka4kkf@arrrl.net.



Schedule

Friday Night Antenna Set-up: Begins at 6:30 PM, rain or shine. Ends by dark (about 8:45 PM) Come help set up the wire antennas!

Saturday Set-up: Begins at 9:30 AM. Please bring ALL antennas/coax/equipment you have promised to donate for the weekend. If you don't need to bring equipment, just bring yourself! There will be plenty of things to do before operating begins at 2 PM. All radio operation begins at 2:00 Saturday afternoon, and proceeds for 24 continuous hours!

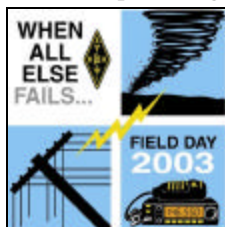
Tear Down: Starts about 2 PM Sunday afternoon, and proceeds until the site is completely cleaned up.

Directions

Proceed east on Crogan Street (Hwy. 29) from the center of Lawrenceville. Turn left on Water Works Drive about one mile from the town center. Drive completely past the pond in the park, and turn right at the very back of the park. There is a driveway leading up a short hill into a pine forest. You will see two large group pavilions housing the Field Day site. There will be continuous talk-in on 147.075 MHz.

2003 Field Day Committee

Chairman: David Adcock ka4kkf
Co-chairman: Harry Holmes k4hjh
Site Selection Coordinator: Dan Keohan kf4ysu
Hospitality/Welcome Table: Ray Back
Station Master Coordinator:
Public Relations: Dwight Evans kg4fjf
Logging Coordinator: Scott Hartlage kf4pwi
Food Coordinators:
Generator Coordinator:
Antenna Coordinator:
Emergency/First Aid Coordinator: Joe Coker kd4vhd
Field Day Photographer: Greg Mauldin af4rz
Bonus Points Coordinator:
W1AW Bulletin Copier Station:
Traffic Handler - SM Message: Andrea Hartlage kg4ium
Solar Battery Provider:
Site Layout Coordinator:
Awards Coordinator: Andrea Hartlage kg4ium



Congratulations to Ed, WA2BIG for creating this years winning Field Day logo. See design above.



Photo courtesy of Norm, WA4ZXV

A Little Field Day Humor

By Clinton Herbert, AB7RG

Courtesy of avs.epix.net/svarc/fd_humor.htm

I remember being really excited for my first Field Day event. I had already gone to a few of the local Amateur Radio club meetings shortly after receiving my license, KF7OOL, and was all fired up for the event. Chuck, the club's president invited me to come and help out. They had about 200 members, and many of them were going to be at Field Day this year, just as always. I was ecstatic!

Finally the big day had arrived. It was Field Day! I was so sleepy that I could hardly get any rest the night before, but was ready to do the whole 24 hours just the same. I went and picked up Willy, one of the senior club members whose car was in the shop and needed a lift. No problem, I had room to spare, and he knew the way to the site, some 50 miles away. I drove out to the annual Field Day site with great enthusiasm, so much so that I got two speeding tickets on the way there. It would have been three, but I didn't want to be late, so I outran the last state trooper to get there. Not an easy feat in a small Toyota truck, but I managed... Willy kind of freaked out when I did that, and was unable to speak once we arrived at the site (thankfully he had a map to the site in his front shirt pocket or I would have never found the site!)

I got to the parking lot that the club had set up for Field Day, and quickly pulled behind a nice new yellow Corvette. My emergency brake never has worked right, but I figured that I could block up the tires of my truck well enough to where nothing would happen. Looking back upon it, I guess I should have not parked on the little hill, as my truck did start to roll forward as soon as I got out of it, but that Corvette managed to stop the sudden forward motion of my truck, really fast! I was glad, as Willy was still in it. I wouldn't want anything bad to happen to Willy!

I went over and asked some club members to help me get Willy out of my Toyota. They were a little concerned with his condition upon seeing him, pale, sweating, hands shaking and all. This was really too bad, as Willy was one of the club's best CW operators. He was unable to compete and had to be taken home. I guess that Willy wasn't much for long drives!

Ted, Willy's younger brother, must have been in one too many Field Day events, as he pulled out of the operation after finding out that someone had carelessly ran into his Corvette. It was some Toyota truck I was told. I guess my truck is a popular make. I wonder who could have been such a careless driver to this day. Quite the coincidence in vehicle makes if you ask me. I was dismayed at such a lack of dedication on Ted's behalf however. After all, a car is a car is a car, and I was sure that Willy would recover nicely.

Anyway, after a little while I met Bob, one of the 80-meter CW & 40-meter SSB operators and club treasurer, who welcomed my offer to help, and asked me if I could get some rope to help him better secure one of the supports for his dipole for 80-meters, as the wind was kicking up a bit. I said no problem and proceeded to my truck. Imagine my good fortune, as on the way to my truck I found some rope! No need to walk all that distance back up to the parking area. The rope was tied to a nice piece of wood that was stuck in the ground at an awkward angle, but I managed to get it untied and gave it a good yank.

As I was walking back from my great rope find one of the operators on 15-meter CW had something horrible happen! His tent collapsed suddenly upon him and his operating station. He was quite shaken by the event, and it also ended the club's 15-meter station operation. This was very unfortunate for the club. Later, someone said that one of the ropes tied to a tent stake got cut loose from the stake and a gust of wind came along and caused the tent to capsize. Odd, you would have thought that such a well-prepared Amateur Radio club such as this would have made sure that the tent was fastened securely.

Later on that evening the club had its annual Field Day barbeque. Great, I was very hungry at this point. I walked up and offered my assistance in getting the fire started. Bob said that I could get the campfire going. So I went and put the wood in the place they had set up for the campfire. The only problem was that the wood had gotten wet from a rainstorm the night before. I came up with a quick solution for this however, and went over to the generator and got a five-gallon gas can. Nothing starts a fire quite like good ol' gasoline! I just knew that the club members would be pleased with my effort in getting the fire started once they came over and saw a roaring campfire! The wood was pretty wet, so I poured on about a gallon of gas or so. Then I figured, you know, this wood is awfully wet, the logs are pretty thick, and I really need to get this fire blazing for the barbeque. So I poured the rest of the can on the wood. I decided to wait a bit before lighting the fire, as I wanted the gasoline to soak in real good. I walked back to the generator and placed the empty gas can where I found it.

On my way back to the campfire I suddenly saw a huge ball of fire shoot way up into the air along with what sounded like an explosion! Oh what bad luck the club is having this year, I thought. I heard all sorts of yelling and screaming on my hurried trek to the campfire. As it turns out Bob had tossed a match onto the wet wood, after putting a little bit of lighter fluid on it to help get it started. He lost his eyebrows, his call sign cap, and his new ARRL Field Day shirt in the event. I guess Bob didn't know the dangers of putting too much lighter fluid on a campfire!

Joe, our club's vice-president, asked me if I could help out with running Bob's 40-meter SSB station. I eagerly jumped at the chance. In fact, I was so eager that I tripped over a few large solar panels, breaking them up pretty badly. Nothing a little glue here and there couldn't fix I thought. However, this really angered Joe, and he told me that the club would be better off if I went out and did something called "Snipe Hunting". So he sent me out into the woods with a nice wooden tent stake from the now ruined 15-meter CW station to go and kill a Snipe. Now I've been Snipe hunting before, but have never to this day seen one, much less killed one. And the odd thing about going Snipe hunting is that when you get back to where you started from all of your hunting buddies are always gone. So I only went out for a couple of hours to assure I would be back and ready to operate the night shift. I never did find any Snipes that night either. Boy, they sure are elusive creatures.

Sometime during the middle of the night the generator quit running. All the stations shut down as the generator died. It had run out of gas, and Joe got all worked up once he found that the gas can was empty. I was amazed at how unprepared the club really was for this year's Field Day. Joe, seeing that I had returned from Snipe hunting asked me to get some more gas for the generator. I couldn't make out what he was saying at first because I was so far away, but he was pointing to me, and it sounded like he was saying: "Steven that ool can't screw this up", or something to that effect. I was impressed that he remembered the last three of my call letters, not to mention his faith in my abilities. I think that by this time I really had made an impression on Joe. Joe must have wanted Steve, the club's secretary to take a lesson from me, as he said for him to go and watch everything that I did, and to make sure that nothing got screwed up by some fool. I'm not sure why Joe was worried about some "fool" messing things up, as this club was supposed to be a top-notch group of guys, and I didn't think that any "fool" would try to interfere with us... Anyway, I grabbed the two nearest five-gallon cans and took them to my Toyota and proceeded out, along with Steve riding shotgun.

The gas station was a good ways away, but I managed to shave off a few minutes by making a quick detour down one of the older roads in the area. I guess that Steve wasn't as dedicated to Field Day as I had thought, because when we came to a sign that said: "bridge out", he protested my suggestion that we jump the bridge. I knew that I could do it; my trusty rusty Toyota had made this sort of thing before... Well we made the jump; it was only 30 feet or so across, and about 150 feet down. No problem! Steve must have been really tired; as he appar-

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Dacula Memorial Day Parade

By Bill Ahls, AB0KF

We had the best weather of any year for the 2003 Memorial Day parade in Dacula this tenth year. This brought out more spectators, more entries for the events (over 85), and 19 amateur radio volunteers. This year started as usual at the Waffle house at 7:00 and over to Hebron Baptist Church at 8:00. I think the parade was finish by 11:30.

The early riser of GARS, Doug, he was at Waffle House and shortly after David was there too. Then the rest of us less early breakfast eaters arrived. The Swiderskis, Carl and Doug went straight to their usual parade positions. As many of the group got breakfast then moved over to

the line-up in the Hebron Baptist Church parking lot for final maps, line-up lists and instructions. We are now meeting in the lot across Hebron Church Road from the church front. All parade parking is here for the second year.

The participants were now ready to be told where to go and GARS did a good job of directing. The Grand Marshall's car was a HUMVEE that did not show up this year so I offer to help drive the little BMW Z3 convertible as a replacement at five minutes to parade start. This was acceptable and the radio was an ICOM Z1 for trivia fans.

Our Grand Marshal this year was Ron Young. Ron is the Army helicopter pilot who returned as a POW from IRAQ. Which explained all those extra reporters, media, and security this year. They just wanted to capture some small town Memorial Day spirit. Our group of volunteers answered all questions and moved traffic.

A little parade history. This was Marvin Atherton's idea noting metro Atlanta did not have a Memorial Day parade. Rick Morris KD4VOJ had just moved to Dacula and wanted the parade as a scout and amateur radio service. Rick and I agreed to coordinate this with GARS. I have been beating the parade radio service drum in Dacula ever since. I left the volunteers open to all but really called



Thanks to the great group who assisted with communications and line-up for the Dacula Memorial Day Parade 2003. From left to right, beginning with the back row are: KG4FXG, AF4FG, KA4KKF, KE4TVA, WB4WTN, K9CMP, AB0KF, KG4IUM, and KF4PWI. These are NOT all of the volunteers, only the ones who were finished with their task before the end of the parade. Several others also volunteered their time! Photo courtesy of Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM.

(Continued on page 9)

Smoke & Mirrors

By Bill Carter, KG4FXG

I suppose you are wondering why I would write an article titled "Smoke & Mirrors"? Well, the smoke is represented by the either the soldering iron or testing a kit and not having it work. Usually seeing smoke when you test something is not a good thing. Mirrors are simply reflecting technical wisdom from its source, not me!

It is probably best to understand that my kit building skills are like a magician who uses smoke and mirrors. The result may look impressive but the process of building a kit isn't that hard. The smoke and mirrors are a distracter. The real process is something everyone can do and learn something while building a simple kit.

I would encourage anyone to built an electronic kit. There are many "Beginner" kits. By beginner, I mean a kit that doesn't have too many parts so you can finish it in several hours. Often many "Larger" kits are just several many beginner kits put together - just more of the same stuff.

Why should you build a kit? I think many may have the same fear that I had for a long time. What if I build it and it doesn't work? Can I handle the emotional stress of failure, the knowledge that I can't fix or make this kit work? It helps to have some understanding that I will never be Electronics Engineer, nor be able follow the Current or RF through the circuit and resolve the problem.

Think disposable kits. What if you only spend say 10 or 20 dollars on the kit? Suppose the only purpose of the kit maybe to teach you more about electronics, more about soldering, and/or more about troubleshooting. The purpose isn't to have the kit work! In the end you are not wasting your money, you are learning basic electronics that will teach you more than the average ham.

"What kit?", you ask. How about an AM or FM radio for your desk at work? How about a "Water Alarm" kit as an addition to your hot water heater for \$7.95? You could build a battery charger kit, Train sounds kit, Infrared Kit, RF "Sniffer" or one of many more kits. They aren't all CW transceivers.

What will you learn? You will learn to solder. You may even ask another ham "what does a diode do? Why do some parts have a right and wrong way to install them? What to do if a part is missing?" The path to knowledge isn't easy if you don't have an electronics background, but you don't need to know anything to jump in and get started.

What tools do I need and will this cost a fortune? Most kits can be built with an inexpensive soldering iron costing only five dollars. For another five dollars I bought a Multimeter to check the value of resistors. Everything you need is at your local Radio Shack or Hamfest.

(Continued on page 9)

Field Day Humor

(Continued from page 5)

ently passed out from what I figured was exhaustion about the time we went airborne. So I dropped him off at the gas station after filling the cans with gasoline and headed back to the club's Field Day site. Just like I figured, Steve just wasn't that dedicated to Field Day.

Upon my arrival back at the Field Day site Joe seemed a bit irritated, as Steve wasn't with me. I explained to him that Steve just couldn't handle the stress of the event and fell asleep. I think that Joe was pretty upset with Steve, as he kept mumbling and kicking dirt around for a while. At least he was happy to see that I had brought the two five-gallon gas cans back.

Now we were full into the night shift. Joe, somewhat reluctantly told me that I could run the 40-meter station. I could hardly wait! I had no problem with solar panels this time, as they were all broken and piled up next to the trashcan. I guess that Joe figured they were now useless due to it being nighttime and all. I hurried into the tent to make my very first Field Day contacts on 40-meter SSB. Once inside, I quickly fired up the radio, a nice one at that a Yaesu FT-1000D. I saw that the mike gain wasn't adjusted properly, so I turned it all the way up and punched the processor button. I started tuning the amplifier, and then realized that I could get more power out of it if I just kept increasing the drive power, and tweaking the load and plate controls. I did this for a while and it was a good thing, as every time that I would un-key, I heard operators complaining about some idiot who was constantly tuning up on the frequency. Odd, I never heard him... I guess I was lucky. So I continued to tune up the amplifier. Then yet another problem arose! The amplifier, which had worked very well up until this point, had a very sharp decrease in power, and smoke started coming out of it. I grabbed a cup of coffee to pour into the small fire in the amplifier, but missed, and it went down into the Yaesu FT-1000D. Then the Yaesu made a few arcing noises and quit.

I guess they just don't make radios like they used to.

Well I couldn't get the fire under control, and had to bail out of the tent, and it went up in flames. It managed to catch the 10-meter tent on fire too. Good thing the band was dead and the club wasn't using the tent for the night shift. However, I knew that this was going to hurt the club's chances at another good score for this year's Field Day. We nearly had lost the 6-meter station that Mike, the club's VHF guru was running. It seems in my haste to help put the fire out I tripped over a guy wire, causing me to fall into a table, which broke my fall nicely I might add, but it did knock over a five gallon jug of ice water, right onto Mike. This was too bad, as I could have used it to help put out the fire. But at least it did wake Mike up, albeit rather suddenly from a sound sleep.

Joe, after being woke up suddenly when the tent he was sleeping in caught fire (the 10-meter set up), was once again, pretty upset to say the least. I tried to explain how the amplifier malfunctioned and that the Yaesu was just a junky piece of plastic, now melted anyway, but Joe didn't seem to care too much for what I had to say. He really needed some psychological treatment I figured, as he rushed at me, screaming, yelling, and swinging a vertical antenna he had yanked up out of the ground at me. I guess the several accidents at this year's Field Day and the stress of operating for so many years had really taken its toll on Joe.

It took the club a good while to get the fire out, and once it was out, the club had lost not only their 15-meter station, but now the 40-meter and 10-meter stations as well. This was most disturbing. It was just getting to be daylight too. After the fire was put out, I decided to go over and offer my assistance to Mike, with the 6-meter station he was operating. Well as soon as Mike saw me coming he started yelling for me to go away and threw a folding chair at me. I guess that Mike wasn't much of a morning person.

Well even though quite a few of the club members seemed to have lost their zest for this year's Field Day I sure hadn't, and I went over to the 20-meter station, ran by Sam. Sam was a ham's ham, a

real DX expert. I asked Sam if I could help him out, and he told me that I could do the logging for him. Great, as this was finally my chance to put some contacts down for the club. However, after only about five minutes or so, Sam told me rather bluntly to leave his operating position, as he was getting very annoyed at me and my yelling "Yeah, way to go Sam!" after each contact he made. Gee, I was only trying to cheer him on.

Undaunted, I went over to the breakfast table to catch a bite to eat. I figured that Sam would need my assistance again after I had eaten. Perhaps then he would have regained his enthusiasm for this year's Field Day. On my way back from breakfast I nearly tripped over some coax cable that was carelessly lying on the ground. With the condition that many of the club members were in at this point I figured that it would be best for me to move it, before someone had another accident. So I gave the coax a good yank. At precisely that same moment however, there must have been a huge gust of wind, because Mike's 6-meter radio suddenly flew right off of his operating table, smashing into the ground! So much for the club's VHF station operation... Boy was the club ever having bad luck this year. Well, at least I did avert any accidents by moving that coax.

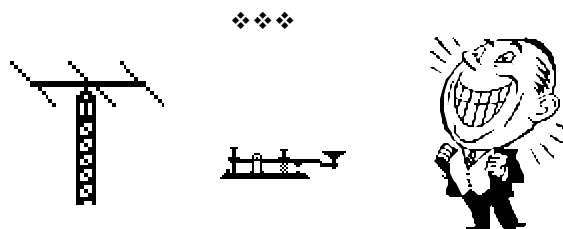
I continued on to Sam's 20-meter operating position, he had Joe, who seemed a bit calmer now, logging for him. I didn't want to further upset Joe or bother Sam, so I tried to stay quiet. I noticed that their 30-foot tower that they had erected was swaying a bit in the wind, so I went and got my truck and tied a guy wire to the end of it and secured their tower to my bumper.

Sam and Joe were doing great at this point and both got ecstatic when a P5 came on frequency and responded to their call. Then I noticed that someone hadn't taped up a coax connector for the station they were operating. Wow, I would hate to have seen them lose a contact or have another malfunction, so I quickly undid the connector on the coax cable, to clean it, then fastened it back up and taped it up.

It really was too bad that Sam couldn't ever get that P5 to come back again... I don't know what happened, and neither did they. Before Sam and the P5 could exchange signal reports their HF radio quit receiving suddenly for a minute. We never could figure out what caused it. It really wasn't a good way to end Field Day, and just made this year's event the club's worst ever. The club members claimed that a curse had befallen them this year, and I was beginning to agree at this point.

I felt bad for the club, and I did have to leave a little early, as I had some yard work that needed to get done, so I offered to drive anyone home who needed a lift, but no one took me up on it. Some of them must really be into physical fitness, as more than one of them said that they would rather walk home. I left about an hour early, while Sam and Joe were still trying to get that P5 back and make some more contacts before Field Day was officially over. So it was a long lonely drive home for me. However, an odd thing happened to me. I noticed when I got home that I had three 10-foot sections of tower tied behind my truck! Wow, this was very fortunate for me, as I needed a tower. Maybe one of the club members thoroughly appreciated my efforts helping out at Field Day this year, and decided to give me the tower sections as a surprise.

Oh well, as they say, there's always next year! And boy, I can hardly wait to help out with the club next year at Field Day! I'm already looking forward to it. I plan to be much more helpful too.



Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC

First United Methodist Church in
Marietta

Meeting begins at 7:30 PM
Talk In 146.880(-)

Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC

Room W218
Van Leer Electrical Engineering
Bldg.

Georgia Tech Campus
Meeting at 7:00 PM

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Red Cross HQ
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta

Meeting is at 7:30 PM
Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

209 Athens St.
Jefferson
Meeting is at 7:00 PM
Talk In - 147.225(+)
PL 123.0

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Southern Skillet on Hwy 9
Dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30
PM
Talk In - 145.47(-)

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Annistown Road Baptist Church
Intersection of Annistown Rd &
Spain Rd

Stone Mountain
Dinner at 6:00 PM
Meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 146.760(-)

First Saturday

North GA QRP Club

Wieuca Baptist Church on
Peachtree Rd/Wieuca, 10 AM

Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at www.qsl.net/arrl-ga.

First Sunday, Even Months

WCARS VEC
2:00 PM
Johnson High School 3305 Poplar
Springs RD, Gainesville Terry Jones,
W4TL (770)967-6364

First Saturday, Even Months

9:00AM
EOC Building
Butch Nitz, AF4FS (770) 968-8780

Second Tuesday

7:00PM
Walton EMC
3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA
(770)498-7759

Second Saturday, Odd Months

CA VEC
8:30 AM
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain St.
Stone Mountain
Bob Verone, W4ETN
(770)978-3179

Third Saturday

CA VEC
9:00AM
Marietta First United Methodist
Church Room 305, 56 Whitlock Ave
Marietta
David Still, WB4RRD
(770) 973-2566

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC
7:00 PM
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK
(770)942-6466.

Fourth Friday

W5YI VEC
7:00 PM
St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Road Lilburn
Headphones Provided! Howie Gould,
W9HG (770)921-8362

Fourth Sunday

2:30 PM
Georgia Tech Student Center
Room 301
David Ziskind, KE4QLH
(404) 966-6864

GARS Communication System

6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz)
82.5 PL Tone

2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud
W4GR/Relay

Main Repeater Site

Oak Street, Lawrenceville

Backup Repeater Site

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Remote Receive Sites

Bogan Road, Buford
Goshen Springs Road, Norcross
Lanier Mountain, Snellville



GWINNETT COLLISION CENTER, INC.

305 Sharon Ind. Way
Suwanee, Georgia 30024
945-0161

Import and Domestic
Unibody and Frame Repair

Marty Fowler, KE4MLH

Mark Justice

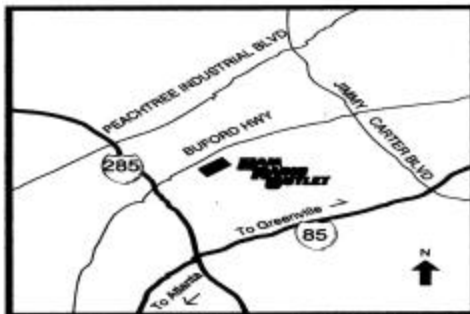
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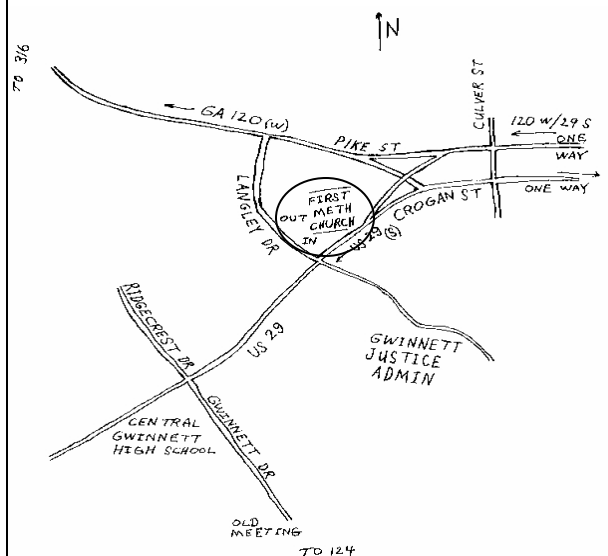


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Arrow
Butternut
Create
Cushcraft
Diamond
Force 12
Hustler
Hy-Gain (Telex)
KLM
Larsen
M2
Premier
Valor
Van Gorden

Club Meeting Site Lawrenceville First United Methodist



Smoke & Mirrors

(Continued from page 6)

Currently I am working on a 5-band CW rig. I finished the digital Frequency display, which is a separate box. What did I learn so far? I pick a part and try to understand it.

Let's look at the capacitor. Simple little thing, but don't use it as a toothpick! It stores and releases electrical energy. Just think of it like a battery. (A battery is more complex, but we are keeping things simple.) Ceramic capacitors often are light tan and look round. They have two plates separated by something that does not conduct electricity. I will avoid the "D" word here. Just think of them as storing electrons and giving up some when more are needed and then storing them. Again hey, they are just like a toilet! No matter how much water you dump into a toilet it never overflows. When water is needed it passes through the pipes and then more is stored! If you love this theory just wait until I explain my SWR theory.

Why we use capacitors can be a little more complicated. Remember; rejoice in the small things in life. You just learned what they looked like, a bit of how they worked, and what is inside them. Just think, now you can march into Radio Shack and confidently ask to purchase a capacitor with some understanding of how it works. You probably already know more than the salesperson.

To wrap up, you will learn much more by building a kit. Much of what you learn is just a deeper understanding of what you learned when you took your technician exam. Wonder why they showed you a schematic and asked a question on the exam about it? Was it because the VE's enjoyed torturing the new candidates? To me electronics is a big mystery, but you can understand it one step at a time and have fun with it. And remember, there are plenty of hams out there ready to help you and explain just about anything.



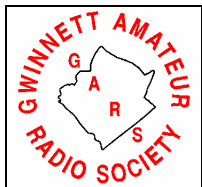
Dacula Parade

(Continued from page 6)

the hams closet to Dacula some years looking for that last volunteer. Next year we need a new GARS liaison to take my place. This has been my favorite parade ever. The two of ten years I could not be at the parade David KA4KKF was there to take over. Thanks David.

The portable repeater that Eddie supplied seemed to work fine for all but the Gazebo area. We need to talk to Marvin about letter cones A to F to start each row. We had some similar before. The GP truck was back with one truck and should be added to the line up with that one truck only.

Thanks this year to: Aaron Klinec, KG4UJM; Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM; Bill Ahls, AB0KF; Bill Carter, KG4FXG; Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN; Bill Van Duynhoven, KE4TVA; Buddy Menshew, KE4YZS; Carl Plotz, WB9JSW; Charles Parkhurst, K9CMP; David Adcock, KA4KKF; Doug Kregel, KB6RRX; Earl Whatley, AF4FG; Marvin Atherton, KG4FHB; Mike Swiderski, K4HBI; Ross Hevener, KG4VJZ; Scott Hartlage, KF4PWI; Sharon Carter, KG4HKO; Steve Back, WB2OGY; and Susan Swiderski, AF4FO.

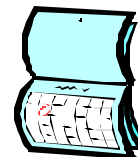


Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

PO Box 88

Lilburn, GA 30048

To receive the **Garzette** via
email...contact John A. Davis
WB4QDX wb4qdx@gars.org



June 2003

5th Executive Committee
10th GARS Club Meeting
27th VE Session
28th & 29th FIELD DAY

July 2003

3rd Executive Committee
8th GARS Club Meeting
25th VE Session

August 2003

7th Executive Committee
12th GARS Club Meeting
22nd VE Session